



*Office of the United States Attorney  
District of Arizona*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## **MESA MAN FACES FEDERAL CHILD PORN CHARGES**

### *Tens of thousands of images found in his home*

PHOENIX - Donald Claus, 56, of Mesa, Ariz. was arrested by Special Agents of the FBI in Phoenix on Friday, November 9, 2007 and charged with receipt and possession of child pornography. Claus appeared Sunday before U.S. Magistrate Judge Michelle H. Burns and was temporarily remanded to federal custody. His detention hearing is set for Thursday, November 15, 2007, at 10:30 a.m. in front of U.S. Magistrate Judge Lawrence O. Anderson. Claus has retained a private defense attorney.

An international investigation, in cooperation with law enforcement agencies in the Netherlands, revealed that Claus allegedly downloaded numerous files with images of child erotica and child pornography from an overseas website. The images depicted young girls engaged in a variety of poses designed to elicit a sexual response. Further investigation led the FBI to Claus' Mesa residence where a search revealed tens of thousands of images he had collected in print starting as far back as 1968 and via the internet since the 1980's.

A conviction for Receipt of Child Pornography carries a maximum penalty of 20 years in federal prison, a \$250,000 fine or both. A conviction for Possession of Child Pornography carries a maximum penalty of 10 years in federal prison, a \$250,000 fine or both. A criminal complaint is simply the method by which a person is charged with criminal activity and raises no inference of guilt. An individual is presumed innocent until competent evidence is presented to a jury that establishes guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

The investigation in this case was conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation. To provide information on this, or other child pornography cases, please call the **FBI hotline at 602-294-4228**. The prosecution is being handled by Vincent Q. Kirby, Assistant U.S. Attorney, District of Arizona, Phoenix.

CASE NUMBER: 07-0318 M  
RELEASE NUMBER: 2007-236(Claus)

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